

cyllinder 4' so that the blades 13 of the cutting cylinder 3 contact the cutting ledges 11' during a cutting operation. The diameter of the transfer cylinder 4' is 1000 mm. The length of the ribbon 1, from the cutting ledge 11' to the next following tucking blade 6 is 310.02 mm, which is the sum of the straight line having a length of 283.19 mm and the curved line having a length of 26.83 mm, as shown in Fig. 6. /-

In the Claims:

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Claim 1 (amended). A variable length cutting device, comprising:

AB
a cutting cylinder;

a transfer cylinder cooperating with said cutting cylinder for cutting a ribbon into signatures having a desired cutoff length, said transfer cylinder having a central cylinder axis and a circumferential region; and

an adjustable diameter portion disposed in said circumferential region of said transfer cylinder, said adjustable diameter portion being movable in a direction toward and away from said central cylinder axis for adjusting the desired cutoff length of the signatures.

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Claim 5 (amended). The cutting device according to claim 1,
including a cutting blade fixed to said cutting cylinder and a
cutting ledge disposed in said circumferential region of said
transfer cylinder for cooperating with said cutting blade, and
means for rotating said cutting cylinder and said transfer
cylinder in synchronism.

Claim 6 (amended). The cutting device according to claim 1,
including means for rotating said transfer cylinder at a
constant angular speed.